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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Heidi Sørensen: 5 lessons on building an emissions-free city | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/heidi_sorensen_5_lessons_on_building_an_emissions_free_city

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

confine

v. to restrict the movement of someone or something
synonym: restrict, limit, contain

(1) **confine** themselves solely, (2) **confine** the scope of use
The animal was **confined** in a small cage.

resilient

adj. able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions

synonym: robust, sturdy, tough

(1) a hard and **resilient** steel, (2) **resilient** population
She is a **resilient** person and has always bounced back from setbacks.

excavate

v. to dig or remove earth, rocks, or other materials from the ground or a site, often to uncover or discover something
synonym: dig, unearth, extract

(1) **excavate** a deep hole, (2) **excavate** soil
The archaeologists **excavated** the ruins of an ancient city buried under the desert sands.

mindset

n. the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone

synonym: attitude, ethos, mentality

(1) flexible **mindset**, (2) the **mindset** in an education

system

Countries whose goal is economic development often focus on fostering an entrepreneurial **mindset** in each individual.

inaction

n. the lack of action or activity; the state of not doing anything; the failure to take action when action is needed

synonym : idleness, passivity, inertia

(1) excuse for **inaction**, (2) consequences of **inaction**

Inaction in response to climate change poses a dire threat to our future.

sect

n. a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

synonym : group, faction, cult

(1) **sect** beliefs, (2) secret **sect**

The minority **sect** believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.

incinerate

v. to burn something, especially waste material completely

synonym : burn

(1) **incinerate** waste, (2) the power to **incinerate** nations

For safety reasons, we must completely **incinerate** contaminated protective clothing.

slab

n. a flat, rectangular piece of material, such as wood or concrete; often used to describe a large, heavy, or solid object or structure

synonym : slate, tile, paving stone

(1) a **slab** of chocolate, (2) marble **slab**

The construction workers poured a large **slab** of concrete for the foundation of the building.

asphalt

n. a black, sticky substance that is used to surface roads, roofs, and other structures made from a mixture of sand, gravel, and a petroleum-based material called bitumen

synonym : tar, road surface, blacktop

(1) **asphalt** pavement, (2) **asphalt** driveway

The road crew was laying fresh **asphalt** on the highway.

procure

v. to obtain, acquire, or secure something, often by effort or skill

synonym : obtain, acquire, secure

(1) **procure** a rare antique, (2) **procure** services

I need to **procure** some supplies for the upcoming project.

criterium

n. a high-speed bicycle race held on a circuit of closed-off streets, typically designed for road racing; a standard or principle used to evaluate something or make a judgment

synonym : benchmark, standard, gauge

(1) the course of the **criterium**, (2) **criterium** for success

The **criterium** race required cyclists to complete several laps around the track.

underestimate

v. to think or suppose that a quantity, price, or size is smaller than it is

synonym : underrate, misjudge, miscalculate

(1) **underestimate** an enemy, (2) **underestimate** the probability

They frequently **underestimated** their abilities and felt inferior.

adaptable

adj. able or willing to modify or be modified to deal with new situations

synonym : flexible, adjustable, elastic

(1) **adaptable** enough for the environment, (2) an **adaptable** person

We seek a candidate who possesses **adaptable** fighting potential.

improvisation

n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

synonym : spontaneity, ad-lib, extemporization

(1) **improvisation** on stage, (2) jazz **improvisation**

He created a beautiful piece of music using only **improvisation**.

biogas

n. a type of gas that is produced from organic matter such as crops, animal waste, or sewage, often used as a source of energy or fuel

(1) **biogas** plant, (2) **biogas** digester

The **biogas** produced from organic waste was used to generate electricity.

tram

n. a vehicle or conveyance, typically for passengers, which runs on rails and is propelled by an overhead or underground cable or electricity; a streetcar or cable car

synonym : streetcar, trolley, tramcar

(1) **tram** line, (2) a **tram** stop

I took the city **tram** to get downtown.

incentivize

v. to make someone want to do in a particular way by offering them a reward

synonym : encourage, motivate

(1) **incentivize** carpooling, (2) **incentivize** the right behavior

Governments **incentivize** their citizens to buy eco-friendly products through subsidies.

Session 2: Spelling

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|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. marble s__b | <i>n.</i> a flat, rectangular piece of material, such as wood or concrete; often used to describe a large, heavy, or solid object or structure |
| 2. co_____e themselves solely | <i>v.</i> to restrict the movement of someone or something |
| 3. the power to inc_____te nations | <i>v.</i> to burn something, especially waste material completely |
| 4. secret s__t | <i>n.</i> a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream |
| 5. the course of the cr_____um | <i>n.</i> a high-speed bicycle race held on a circuit of closed-off streets, typically designed for road racing; a standard or principle used to evaluate something or make a judgment |
| 6. cr_____um for success | <i>n.</i> a high-speed bicycle race held on a circuit of closed-off streets, typically designed for road racing; a standard or principle used to evaluate something or make a judgment |
| 7. jazz imp_____ion | <i>n.</i> the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation |
| 8. consequences of in_____on | <i>n.</i> the lack of action or activity; the state of not doing anything; the failure to take action when action is needed |

ANSWERS: 1. slab, 2. confine, 3. incinerate, 4. sect, 5. criterium, 6. criterium, 7. improvisation, 8. inaction

9. inc_____ze carpooling *v.* to make someone want to do in a particular way by offering them a reward
10. pr_____e a rare antique *v.* to obtain, acquire, or secure something, often by effort or skill
11. s__t beliefs *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
12. imp_____ion on stage *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
13. und_____ate the probability *v.* to think or suppose that a quantity, price, or size is smaller than it is
14. bi___s digester *n.* a type of gas that is produced from organic matter such as crops, animal waste, or sewage, often used as a source of energy or fuel
15. co_____e the scope of use *v.* to restrict the movement of someone or something
16. ex_____te a deep hole *v.* to dig or remove earth, rocks, or other materials from the ground or a site, often to uncover or discover something
17. a hard and re_____nt steel *adj.* able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions
18. flexible mi_____t *n.* the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone
19. as_____t pavement *n.* a black, sticky substance that is used to surface roads, roofs, and other structures made from a mixture of sand, gravel, and a petroleum-based material called bitumen

ANSWERS: 9. incentivize, 10. procure, 11. sect, 12. improvisation, 13. underestimate, 14. biogas, 15. confine, 16. excavate, 17. resilient, 18. mindset, 19. asphalt

20. ad_____le enough for the environment
adj. able or willing to modify or be modified to deal with new situations
21. as_____t driveway
n. a black, sticky substance that is used to surface roads, roofs, and other structures made from a mixture of sand, gravel, and a petroleum-based material called bitumen
22. re_____nt population
adj. able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions
23. an ad_____le person
adj. able or willing to modify or be modified to deal with new situations
24. ex_____te soil
v. to dig or remove earth, rocks, or other materials from the ground or a site, often to uncover or discover something
25. a t__m stop
n. a vehicle or conveyance, typically for passengers, which runs on rails and is propelled by an overhead or underground cable or electricity; a streetcar or cable car
26. the mi_____t in an education system
n. the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone
27. bi___s plant
n. a type of gas that is produced from organic matter such as crops, animal waste, or sewage, often used as a source of energy or fuel
28. inc_____te waste
v. to burn something, especially waste material completely
29. pr_____e services
v. to obtain, acquire, or secure something, often by effort or skill

ANSWERS: 20. adaptable, 21. asphalt, 22. resilient, 23. adaptable, 24. excavate, 25. tram, 26. mindset, 27. biogas, 28. incinerate, 29. procure

30. inc_____ze the right behavior *v.* to make someone want to do in a particular way by offering them a reward
31. a s__b of chocolate *n.* a flat, rectangular piece of material, such as wood or concrete; often used to describe a large, heavy, or solid object or structure
32. t__m line *n.* a vehicle or conveyance, typically for passengers, which runs on rails and is propelled by an overhead or underground cable or electricity; a streetcar or cable car
33. und_____ate an enemy *v.* to think or suppose that a quantity, price, or size is smaller than it is
34. excuse for in_____on *n.* the lack of action or activity; the state of not doing anything; the failure to take action when action is needed

ANSWERS: 30. incentivize, 31. slab, 32. tram, 33. underestimate, 34. inaction

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The road crew was laying fresh _____ on the highway.
n. a black, sticky substance that is used to surface roads, roofs, and other structures made from a mixture of sand, gravel, and a petroleum-based material called bitumen
2. I took the city _____ to get downtown.
n. a vehicle or conveyance, typically for passengers, which runs on rails and is propelled by an overhead or underground cable or electricity; a streetcar or cable car
3. I need to _____ some supplies for the upcoming project.
v. to obtain, acquire, or secure something, often by effort or skill
4. She is a _____ person and has always bounced back from setbacks.
adj. able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions
5. He created a beautiful piece of music using only _____.
n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
6. The archaeologists _____ the ruins of an ancient city buried under the desert sands.
v. to dig or remove earth, rocks, or other materials from the ground or a site, often to uncover or discover something
7. The minority _____ believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.
n. a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

ANSWERS: 1. asphalt, 2. tram, 3. procure, 4. resilient, 5. improvisation, 6. excavated, 7. sect

8. Countries whose goal is economic development often focus on fostering an entrepreneurial _____ in each individual.
n. the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone
9. The animal was _____ in a small cage.
v. to restrict the movement of someone or something
10. The _____ produced from organic waste was used to generate electricity.
n. a type of gas that is produced from organic matter such as crops, animal waste, or sewage, often used as a source of energy or fuel
11. They frequently _____ their abilities and felt inferior.
v. to think or suppose that a quantity, price, or size is smaller than it is
12. We seek a candidate who possesses _____ fighting potential.
adj. able or willing to modify or be modified to deal with new situations
13. The construction workers poured a large _____ of concrete for the foundation of the building.
n. a flat, rectangular piece of material, such as wood or concrete; often used to describe a large, heavy, or solid object or structure
14. Governments _____ their citizens to buy eco-friendly products through subsidies.
v. to make someone want to do in a particular way by offering them a reward
15. For safety reasons, we must completely _____ contaminated protective clothing.
v. to burn something, especially waste material completely

ANSWERS: 8. mindset, 9. confined, 10. biogas, 11. underestimated, 12. adaptable, 13. slab, 14. incentivize, 15. incinerate

16. _____ in response to climate change poses a dire threat to our future.
- n.* the lack of action or activity; the state of not doing anything; the failure to take action when action is needed
17. The _____ race required cyclists to complete several laps around the track.
- n.* a high-speed bicycle race held on a circuit of closed-off streets, typically designed for road racing; a standard or principle used to evaluate something or make a judgment

ANSWERS: 16. Inaction, 17. criterium